



# ENGAGING COMMUNITIES FOR PEACE IN NIGERIA

QUARTER 3 FY16

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# ENGAGING COMMUNITIES FOR PEACE IN NIGERIA

FY 16 QUARTER 3 REPORT  
JULY 2016

**Contract No.: AID-620-A-15-00002**

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# ACRONYMS

<b>ECPN</b>	Engaging Communities for Peace in Nigeria
<b>IBN</b>	Interest-Based Negotiation
<b>LGA</b>	Local Government Area
<b>USAID</b>	United States Agency for International Development
<b>USG</b>	United States Government
<b>CJTF</b>	Civilian Joint Task Force
<b>M&amp;E</b>	Monitoring and Evaluation
<b>RCT</b>	Randomized Controlled Trial
<b>PARE</b>	The Pastoral Resolve
<b>EWER</b>	Early Warning & Early Response
<b>IR3</b>	Intermediate Result 3
<b>MARKETS</b>	Maximizing Agriculture Revenue & Key Enterprises in Targeted Sites

# I. PROGRAM OVERVIEW/SUMMARY

<b>Program Name</b>	<b>Engaging Communities for Peace in Nigeria</b>
<b>Activity Start Date and End Date</b>	June 8, 2015 – June 7, 2017
<b>Name of Prime Implementing Partner</b>	Mercy Corps
<b>Contract Number</b>	AID-620-A-15-00002
<b>Name of Sub-awardees</b>	The Pastoral Resolve
<b>Major Counterpart Organizations</b>	
<b>Geographic Coverage</b>	Benue, Nasarawa
<b>Reporting Period</b>	April-June, 2016

# 1. Program Description/Introduction

Engaging Communities for Peace in Nigeria (ECPN) is a two-year USAID-funded program that aims to reduce violence in the Middle Belt states by peacefully preventing and resolving farmer-pastoralist conflicts. The goals/objectives of the program are to strengthen the capacity of farmer and pastoralist leaders to resolve disputes in an inclusive, sustainable manner; leverage social and economic opportunities to build trust across lines of division; and foster engagement among farmer-pastoralist communities, local authorities and neighboring communities to prevent conflict.

The program is built on three core theories of change that stress the importance of bringing people together to peacefully resolve shared challenges, and build relationships and economic interdependence. These are: 1) If key farmer and pastoralist leaders are given the skills and support needed to peacefully and collaboratively manage disputes, then inter-communal violence will decrease; 2) If farmers and pastoralists collaborate on quick-impact projects that demonstrate the benefits of cooperation and economic projects that address underlying tensions, then there will be an increase in positive interactions, thereby building trust and economic interdependence, while reducing violence; and 3) If farmers and pastoralists work together with surrounding communities and local government authorities to monitor and prevent conflict, then these communities will be better able to absorb and adapt to shocks and stressors in their environment.

ECPN leverages Mercy Corps, USAID and global best practices for people-to-people initiatives to shape the design of the interventions. These include promoting sustainability of negotiated agreements by practically addressing economic and environmental drivers of resource-based conflicts; connecting community-level engagement with higher level initiatives and including a broad range of stakeholders in the development of dispute resolution agreements.

ECPN is focused on reducing violence in 20 farmer and pastoralist communities across the targeted states of Benue and Nasarawa through an integrated economic development and conflict management approach, combined with inter-faith peacebuilding activities. The program is being implemented in partnership with The Pastoral Resolve, who has over 10 years of experience operating in the Middle Belt at the intersection of livelihood enhancement, gender equity, governance, health and development with diverse and often marginalized communities.

## 2. Summary of Results to Date

ECPN Project Indicators	Project Baseline		FY 2016 Q3 Reporting Period (April-June 2016)			Annual Target	Year to Date Actual	% of Annual Target	Project Target	LoP Actual	% of LoP Target
	Date	Value	Target	Actual	% of Target						
<b>Goal: Reduced violence between farmers and pastoralists in Nigeria's Middle Belt states in target sites</b>											
% change in number of conflicts reported from activity interventions supported by USG funds. (Cross-Cutting)	Dec-2015	TBD	0	0	0%	0	0	0	10%	N/A	N/A
<b>Outcome 1 Capacity of communities to resolve disputes increased.</b>											
1.1. # of disputes resolved by trained participants	Dec-2015	0	0	0	0%	40	0	0%	100	0	0%
1.2 # of stakeholders benefiting from conflict mitigation trainings with USG assistance	Dec-2015	0	200	0	0%	200	154	77%	200	0	0%
1.3 Number of local women participating in a substantive role or position in a peacebuilding process supported with USG assistance	Dec-2015	0	66	0	0%	66	49	74%	66	0	0%
<b>Outcome2 Trust between communities across lines of division increased.</b>											
2.1 % of participants who report social cohesion across conflict group lines	Dec-2015	68%	78%	0	0%	0	0	0%	TBD	N/A	N/A
2.2 Number of new groups or initiatives created through USG funding, dedicated to resolving the conflict or the drivers of the conflict"	Dec-2015	0	10	0	0%	10	0	0%	20	0	0%

ECPN Project Indicators	Project Baseline		FY 2016 Q3 Reporting Period (April-June 2016)			Annual Target	Year to Date Actual	% of Annual Target	Project Target	LoP Actual	% of LoP Target
Outcome 3 Joint community and government conflict management plans developed.											
3.1: % of beneficiaries in targeted sites who feel government is competently addressing concerns. (cross-cutting)	Dec-2015	33%	43%	0	0%	0	0	0%	TBD	NA	N/A
3.2 Number of people participating in USG-supported events, trainings, or activities designed to build mass support for peace and reconciliation	Dec-2015	0	300	365	122%	300	519	173%	1,000	0	0%



## II. ACTIVITY IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS

### 2.1 Progress Narrative/Key Achievements

#### 2.1.1 Community Conflict Prevention Forums

ECPN continued to engage local leaders to facilitate dialogue and collaboration between pastoralist and farmer groups within conflicting communities. In each target site, a minimum of 33 community leaders comprising of farmers, pastoralists, women, men, community peace committees/civilian joint task force (CJTF), youths, religious leaders and local government officials participated in a 1-day joint community-based conflict prevention forum from May 18 to 27, 2016. ECPN also invited community leaders from neighboring communities whose stability impact target sites, in order to support ECPN communities' peacebuilding and reconciliation process.

Due to violence between Tudun Adabu (an ECPN site) and another community called Odobu, ECPN conducted forums in both Tudun Adabu and Daddere for farmers and pastoralists respectively. In addition, a separate forum was conducted for the displaced pastoralist group from Torkula community, Benue State who are currently settled in Tsohon Tunga, Nasarawa State.



Conflict prevention forum in

Gidan Buba community

During the forum, pastoralist and farmer communities discussed and analyzed findings from the ECPN community-led resource mapping conducted in the target sites between March and April, 2016. The report of the community-led resource mapping including information on natural resource-based drivers of conflict gathered from the community leaders. The forum provided a platform for communication and collaboration on ways to address the drivers of conflict identified during the community-led resource mapping exercises in an inclusive and participatory manner.



Conflict Prevention Forum in Daddere

A major outcome of the joint conflict prevention forums was the development of Conflict Prevention Plans by the conflicting communities, incorporating ways of mitigating identified natural resources-based drivers of conflict between farmers and pastoralists, which include: blockage of cattle routes; destruction of crops; using small children to graze cattle; water pollution by cattle and/or fishermen; disputes over land ownership; and application of chemicals to farmland that have a harmful effect on cattle, crops and humans. Community Peace Committees were set up in most of the target sites to ensure the implementation of the developed conflict prevention plans, as well as to support the communities to sustain peacebuilding efforts.



Community members in Tsohon Tunga demonstrating collective peace efforts



### **2.1.2 High Level Engagements with Government Officials and Security Agencies**

As part of ECPN government engagement strategies, the program team visited the Deputy Governor of Nasarawa State, as well as other state government agencies, including: the Commissioner for Agriculture and Water Resources, the Commissioner for Land and Urban Development, the Commissioner for Information, the Police Commissioner, and the Director of State Security Services (DSS). During the visit, ECPN introduced the program to the state government and obtained support from the Nasarawa State government.

During the meeting with Nasarawa State Deputy Governor, Hon. Silas Agara, ECPN informed the deputy governor about the planned ECPN activities in the state and requested support of the state government in organizing the forums. The Deputy Governor pledged his support and shared the government's plans to rebuild essential structures such as schools, police stations, churches and mosques destroyed during the 2014 crisis. He also requested that ECPN share updates on Mercy Corps activities in Nasarawa State, which Mercy Corps agreed to.



At meetings with the Police Commissioner, Director of State Security Services and Commandant of Nigeria Security and Civil Defense Corps, ECPN requested the active participation of the security agencies in community conflict prevention forums. Among the issues discussed during the meetings with security chiefs was the possibility of ECPN leveraging a government 'community policing' initiative in order to strengthen the security response to conflict in the target sites and identify committed security personnel for Mercy Corps' pilot Early Warning Early Response (EWER) system. Furthermore, ECPN informed the heads of the security agencies of the pilot of an Early Warning and Early Response (EWER) system in Nasarawa State designed to expedite conflict incident reporting and ensure farmer and pastoralist communities know who to call during emergencies.

The heads of the security agencies assured ECPN of their support and cooperation in ensuring a rapid response to crisis, as well as their participation in Mercy Corps' activities, especially the conflict prevention forums.



Other key and relevant government ministries visited include: the Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources; Ministry of Land; Ministry of Information; Ministry of Rural and Community Development; and Ministry of Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs. The meetings with these government ministries facilitated beneficial connections and linkages between government authorities and local community leaders, an important step in mobilizing these leaders to take ownership of the process and move it forward, thereby ensuring sustainability.

### **2.1.3 Identification of Quick Impact and Natural Resource Management Projects**



Water: source of conflict in Ashige community

As part of the activities for the implementation of quick-impact projects and natural resource management initiatives addressing drivers of conflict, local community leaders involved in ECPN activities led the process of identifying the links between shared natural resources, conflict and local initiatives that will prevent conflict over shared resources - to the benefit of both conflicting communities.





Pollution of water source by cattle: source of conflict in Daddere

ECPN will implement the joint natural resource management initiatives and quick-impact projects identified by the ECPN communities in order to address the drivers of conflicts. So far, ECPN communities have identified several joint natural resource management initiatives/projects, such as: demarcation of water point for cattle and human consumption; embankment of water sources; installation of sign posts around grazing routes for easy identification by farmers and pastoralists; and construction of fences around farmland/grazing routes to prevent farmland encroachment and destruction of crops.

Based on the findings from the resource mapping jointly conducted by ECPN and the communities, the ECPN team visited some target communities in Nasarawa to identify locations/sites for the implementation of natural resource management initiatives and quick-impact projects that will address sources of conflict in the community.





Mercy Corps technical Engineer/farmer and pastoralist members assessing suitable site for quick impact project

In Ashige, the community members met and decided that choosing **a borehole as a quick-impact project** could provide additional water, which both farmers and pastoralists will benefit from, and could strengthen the relationship between the two groups. Both farmer and pastoralist groups agreed that embankments should be built to prevent sand and dirt from getting into the water sources. The *Hakimi* (district head) of the community has already donated land for this quick-impact project and ECPN will follow the process of developing an MoU for the transfer of the land ownership to the community.

In order to identify a quick-impact/natural resource management project in Rukubi site, the ECPN team were taken to a lake that is the source of conflict between farmers/fishermen and herders. ECPN plans to support community conflict prevention efforts by constructing a barrier or a signpost that will prevent cattle from destroying fishing equipment while grazing, which has been a source of conflict. Because it was a very wide lake with a large expanse of grassy land, it will only be possible to put up signposts in strategic positions by the lake. The fishermen/farmers also agreed to work with the herders to place colorful signs to indicate where fishing gear is placed. This agreement was subsequently included in the community conflict prevention plan to be signed by the community leaders. ECPN also plans to construct a borehole as a quick-impact project at a strategic location in the community where it will be accessible to both farmers and herders. The two groups will provide manual labor as they work together in the implementation of the project and collectively benefit from it. The actual site/location of the project is yet to be identified, as the community peace committee members need to consult with other community members on an appropriate and suitable site/location.

In Daddere, specific grazing routes were identified as locations where conflicts often occur between farmers and pastoralists, as farmlands were located along these routes. The two groups also identified a water source (flowing river) used by farmers, pastoralists and cattle as a source of tension/conflict between the two groups. According to both groups, conflicts occur when cattle pollute the water source. In order to address these sources of conflict, the two groups agreed on the construction of fences along grazing routes that will prevent cattle from destroying crops and designating a separate water source for cattle further away from the river.



## 2.2 Implementation Status

The activities implemented in this quarter include: community conflict prevention forums; high-level engagement with government officials; and identification of quick-impact and natural resources management projects.

S/N	Activities	Time Period	Responsible Person(s)	Objectives	Expected Outcome	Output
1.	<i>Community Conflict Prevention Forums</i>	May 18 –27, 2016	PARE, support by Mercy Corps	<input type="checkbox"/> To jointly develop strategic plans for addressing underlying tensions and preventing escalation of conflict in the future, following their participation in series of forums.	<input type="checkbox"/> 10 conflict prevention plans that address underlying drivers of conflict manner.	<input type="checkbox"/> Participants Attendance List <input type="checkbox"/> Conflict Prevention Forum report <input type="checkbox"/> Conflict Prevention Plans <input type="checkbox"/> Photographs
2.	<i>High Level Engagement with Government Officials</i>	June 9-10 2016	Mercy Corps with support from PARE	<input type="checkbox"/> To introduce Mercy Corps and the ECPN program in the states and solicit the support and collaboration of state government, in order to: obtain their active participation in ECPN activities; get buy-in regarding joint natural resources management and quick-impact projects.	<input type="checkbox"/> Senior government officials support and collaborate with Mercy Corps on active participation in ECPN activities.	<input type="checkbox"/> Report of visits <input type="checkbox"/> Photographs
3.	<i>Identification of Quick-Impact Projects &amp; Natural Resources Management Initiatives</i>	June 21 -23 2016	Mercy Corps with support from PARE	<input type="checkbox"/> To identify joint natural resource management initiatives and quick-impact projects in collaboration with the various target communities that will address underlying tensions and prevent future conflict from arising.	<input type="checkbox"/> 10 quick-impact projects and 10 joint natural resources management initiatives.	<input type="checkbox"/> List of quick-impact projects and joint natural resources management initiatives <input type="checkbox"/> Photographs



## 2.3 Implementation Challenges

- a. At the conflict prevention forum organized for Loko farmer and pastoralist communities, members of Ushata community, one of the ECPN control sites located near Loko, were in attendance. This is one of the challenges with RCT design, a situation whereby the treatment arm of the program will be contaminated, as the people from the control arm participate in the intervention in error. The ECPN team was unaware of their participation until the community peace committee was inaugurated. When the team asked participants from the Loko community why they had invited Ushata farmer and pastoralist communities (even though they were specifically told not to do so), they explained that the Ushata community plays a very prominent role in the peace and security of the communities under Loko Development Area and should participate. This has been documented in the ECPN irregularity register.
- b. The Eggons and Alago ethnic groups in Assakio/Lega-Obi site is yet to reach an agreement on the return of the Eggons back to Assakio and Lega-Obi communities. Therefore, the ECPN team has yet to conduct community-led Resource and Conflict Prevention Forums in these communities, resulting in the delay in implementing activities around social cohesion and trust. The ECPN team has met separately with the leaders of the two groups, but they have not yet come to an agreement on their demands.
- c. The pastoralists' unpredictable pattern of movement posed a challenge in Mbaku. Only farmers took part in the forum designed for both of the conflicting communities, as the pastoralist group in the community had migrated to another community for grazing. Similarly, separate forums were conducted for farmers and pastoralists from Torkula, Benue State, as the displaced pastoralists from Torkula participated in a forum in their host community known as Tsohon Tunga in Nasarawa state.

## 2.4 Indicators from M&E Plan & Targets

In response to ECPN's Intermediate Result 3 (IR3), the team conducted joint community-based conflict prevention forums in Nasarawa and Benue states that brought farmers and pastoralists from the corresponding conflicting communities together, providing a platform for communication and collaboration on ways to address the drivers of conflict identified during the community-led resource mapping exercises in an inclusive and participatory manner. Below is the data showing attendance/participation of project beneficiaries in the activity.

Sites	Pastoralist Male	Pastoralist Female	Farmer Male	Farmer Female	Total
Assakio	0	0	0	0	0
Rukubi	6	0	35	0	41
Ashige	3	1	22	8	34
Tudun Adabu/Daddere	8	0	30	11	49
Loko	5	0	22	3	30
Mbaku	0	0	13	15	28
Zango/Daudu	3	0	17	9	29
Gidan Buba	11	1	27	4	43
Anyiin	10	2	23	7	42
Torkula	9	5	42	13	69
<b>Total</b>					<b>365</b>

# I. INTEGRATION OF CROSSCUTTING ISSUES AND USAID FORWARD PRIORITIES

## 3.1 Gender Equality and Female Empowerment

ECPN recognizes that land and resource-based conflict affects men, women and youth differently. Violent incidents that destroy property and damage land and crops adversely affect women and their livelihood options, as women make up 60-79% of the rural workforce. Additionally, women are five times less likely than men to own land, therefore their economic options become even more limited if they lose husbands and sons in the violence. Cultural norms and household responsibilities further limit their mobility and participation in local decision-making structures. Even after a conflict incident subsides, women face unique challenges due to the breakdown of family and communal structures, thereby increasing the risk of gender-based violence.

To ensure that Mercy Corps maximize women's substantial potential to prevent conflict, ECPN will work diligently with PARE and the targeted communities to ensure that women's voices are incorporated in negotiation approaches and the design of economic activities. ECPN will carefully select leaders for negotiation training and implement forums that bring women together separately from men, giving them the opportunity to express themselves, develop confidence and identify conflict management strategies. The EPCN program will promote women's participation by being sensitive to the cultural norms of the area. In communities where women's inclusion is limited, we will engage first with male gatekeepers to secure their trust before reaching out to the women. This approach will result in meaningful participation among women, contradicting local conventional wisdom that women would not be able to participate in ECPN activities due to religious and cultural restrictions. ECPN has been able to disaggregate all project data by sex and ensured that the data from women collected during mapping exercises evaluated the disparate impact of the program on both men and women, and assessed the distinct role each plays in resolving and preventing community conflicts.

## 3.2 Sustainability Mechanisms

The ECPN program's phased approach will reduce violence between farmers and pastoralists through integrated economic development and dispute resolution. The program will support key farmer and pastoralist leaders in building their capacity to resolve disputes peacefully and leverage once-respected traditional agreements as a means to begin non-violent responses to resolve the polarization between communities. By linking the negotiated agreements made by these leaders to economic development projects that address underlying tensions, ECPN will use a market-based approach that incentivizes interaction between adverse communities, as well as business and commercial associations that benefit from cooperation between the two groups. Already in Nigeria, Mercy Corps has linked communities' joint projects to local markets, for example by facilitating an agreement between one site's new beekeeping association with a honey buyer. Mercy Corps is already supporting communities to form legally recognized cooperatives through which they will gain income

together in a sustainable way. In line with USAID policy of investing in projects that will be heavily supported by the Nigerian government, Mercy Corps will develop initiatives to constructively engage Nigerian governments both at the state and local levels for buy-in to ECPN program activities.

Drawing on the successes of both the network of negotiators and community socio-economic projects, ECPN will help expand some of these solutions to conflict with surrounding communities and local government officials by facilitating forums to prevent trigger factors that are easily inflamed in the Middle Belt context. By engaging the surrounding “zone of influence” of communities not specifically chosen as target sites, farmer and pastoralists communities will strengthen their resilience in an unstable environment and deepen the peace they helped establish.

## IV. LESSONS LEARNED

- Constant communication with the project communities increases trust and improves relationships between ECPN and the communities. Project participants were more comfortable participating in ECPN activities due to the fact that the ECPN team has visited the communities several times over a long period of time.
- Although the community conflict prevention forum is designed to bring together diverse groups of stakeholders from conflicting communities and neighboring communities, and facilitate cooperation on conflict prevention and peacebuilding initiatives, the involvement and active participation of pastoralist women in the forum may only be attained if a separate forum is organized for pastoralist women or held in the pastoralist settlement.

## V. PLANNED ACTIVITIES FOR NEXT QUARTER (INCLUDING UPCOMING EVENTS)

S/No	Activities	Time Period	Responsible Person(s)	Objectives	Expected Outcome	Output/Deliverables
1.	<i>Implementation of Quick-Impact Projects &amp; Joint Natural Resource Management Initiatives</i>	July 18 – August 31 2016	PARE & Mercy Corps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To address drivers of conflict, reduce resource demand, increase economic opportunity, and promote cooperation among farmer and pastoralist communities.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10 quick-impact projects and 10 joint natural resources management initiatives implemented.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>List of implemented quick-impact projects and joint natural resources management initiatives</li> <li>Photographs</li> <li>Activity Report</li> </ul>
2.	<i>Observational Monitoring</i>	Last week of July 2016	Mercy Corps, supported by PARE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To collect data on differences among the randomized groups of participant, semi-participant, non-participant in project intervention sites, and non-participants from non-intervention sites.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Data collected from 10 ECPN sites on differences among randomized groups of participants from intervention and non-intervention sites.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Observation Template</li> <li>Activity Report</li> </ul>
3.	<i>Mentoring and Workshops for Trained Negotiators</i>	Starts August 2016 (and continue throughout the lifespan of the program)	Led by PARE, supported by Mercy Corps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To train local partners on how to use Dispute Tracker tools as a way to build their capacity in monitoring and evaluation.</li> <li>To capture key information about local agreements.</li> <li>To facilitate a space for participants to share experiences and challenges.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dispute Tracker Tool developed specifically for follow up used.</li> <li>Local partners trained on how to use Dispute Database Tool to build their capacity in monitoring and evaluation.</li> <li>Key information about local agreements captured.</li> <li>Participants share challenges and experiences.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dispute Tracking Tool</li> <li>Training Handbook</li> <li>Signed Participant Attendance sheets</li> <li>Activity Report Sheet</li> <li>Photos/videos</li> </ul>
4	<i>Observational Monitoring</i>	Last week of July 2016	Led by PARE, supported by Mercy Corps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To collect data on differences among the randomized groups of participants, semi-participants, non-participants in project intervention sites, and non-participants from non-intervention sites.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Data collected from 10 ECPN sites on differences among randomized groups of participants from intervention and non-intervention sites.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Observation Template</li> <li>Activity Report</li> </ul>

5	<i>Training on Interest-Based Negotiation</i>	Late August, 2016	Led by Mercy Corps, supported by PARE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To train 50 security agents, and state and local government officials in interest-based negotiation from Nasarawa and Benue states to use these skills in resolving disputes in a sustainable manner.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>50 trained security agents, and state and local government officials in Nasarawa and Benue states are able to use interest-based negotiation skills to resolve disputes in a sustainable manner.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Participants Attendance List containing names and address of security agents, state and local government officials</li> <li>IBN training report</li> </ul>
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